

NEWS RELEASE

Alabama Department of Public Safety

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TROOPERS TO CRACK DOWN ON IMPAIRED DRIVERS DURING TRAFFIC SAFETY CAMPAIGN: *Drunk Driving. Over the Limit. Under Arrest.*

MONTGOMERY — Alabama state troopers will be cracking down on impaired drivers during the Labor Day travel period, according to Department of Public Safety Director Col. W.M. Coppage. He said troopers also are joining with other law enforcement and traffic safety agencies throughout Alabama and the nation in a new safety enforcement blitz – “*Drunk Driving. Over the Limit. Under Arrest.*”

Coppage said all available troopers are on duty, especially targeting drunken drivers during routine patrols, checkpoints, and special enforcement details, including saturation and line patrols. He said in addition to the aggressive enforcement effort, public awareness is helping gain motorist compliance during the traffic safety campaign, slated to run Aug. 18 through Sept. 4.

Drunken driving was a factor in more than 400 traffic deaths in Alabama last year alone. “Drunken drivers threaten the life and safety of every motorist with whom they share the roadways,” said Coppage. “Troopers will not tolerate this dangerous, illegal and irresponsible behavior, and will arrest all violators.” He reminded Alabamians that Alabama’s DUI laws are tough, and penalties may include stiff fines, loss of driving privilege and jail time.

In addition to urging motorists to drive sober during the holiday travel period, state troopers encourage them to buckle up, and obey speed limits and all other traffic laws. “The Labor Day holiday traditionally brings heavy traffic, and motorists should keep safety in mind, obeying speed limits, buckling up, and exercising caution when they take to the roadways,” said Coppage.

Troopers plan to focus patrols on heavily traveled roadways, including interstates and popular beach and vacation routes, in conjunction with Operation C.A.R.E. A cooperative effort by state police nationwide, C.A.R.E. – Combined Accident Reduction Effort – seeks to promote traffic safety during holiday periods through enforcement and safety awareness.

The Department of Public Safety estimates that 13 people may die as the result of traffic crashes in Alabama during the 78-hour Labor Day holiday travel period beginning at 6 p.m. Friday, Sept. 1, and ending at midnight Monday, Sept. 4.

Last year nine traffic deaths occurred during the 78-hour period, eight on rural roads and one in an urban area. At least six – fully two-thirds – of these deaths were alcohol related, and six of the motor vehicle occupants who were killed were not using safety restraints.

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